

Silent MESSENGER

IDAHO COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

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DAVINA SNOW IS SELECTED FOR HAMILTON RELAY AWARD

Davina Snow of Boise is a passionate advocate for individuals who are deaf. Active in many facets and roles within the community, Davina's involvement with numerous organizations and agencies convey her interests in supporting equal access and education.

In her current roles as an American Sign Language (ASL) lecturer and ASL coordinator for the Department of World Languages at Boise State University (BSU), Davina offers six levels of ASL courses, advises students minoring in ASL, and administers ASL placement and challenge exams. She is known for challenging her students to involve ASL in as many aspects of their lives as possible. As the first full-time deaf instructor in the BSU language department, Davina helps other staff members become more aware of accommodation needs. Davina is also an active contributor and member of the Idaho Chapter of the ASL Teachers Association.

Among Davina's many activities is being instrumental in making the local theater more accessible for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. She volunteers as an actor to sign annual play synopses for the Idaho Shakespeare Festival's Signing Shakespeare. Within her church, Davina served as the interpreting coordinator, ensuring a rotation of qualified interpreters.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Meridian's Settler's Park
Treasure Valley Resource Fair and
10th Anniversary Celebration of the
Adventure Island Playground

September 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Best Western/Vista Inn, Boise
Council quarterly board meeting

September 20

Boise Ranch Golf Course
Idaho Hands and Voices Golf Scramble

September 17-21, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Portland, ME
Telecommunication Equipment
Distribution Program Association (TEDPA)
annual meeting

September 27, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Council offices
Deaf Awareness Day

November 14

Conference call Council quarter-
ly board meeting (Boise)

2015

January/February (TBA): Meet & Greet at
Capitol

April 24: Council quarterly board meeting
(Boise)

*Contact the Council for more details or to add
an event to this list.*

NOTES FROM...

ICDHH DIRECTOR STEVEN SNOW

By Steven Snow
Executive Director

I can hardly believe another summer is coming to an end, the seventh since I started at ICDHH. This summer was one of the busiest summers for the Council, which shows just how much we have accomplished.



As the executive director for just over six years, I've been privileged to play a role in the Council's growing partnerships and success as it has become a well-established, vital part of the executive structures within the state governmental system. Now, after several rough years, the Council is positioned to make greater strides toward sustainability and, ultimately, the ability to serve more deaf and hard of hearing citizens and other stakeholders.

This summer gave me the opportunity to travel to different parts of the state, meeting with constituents, strengthening our partnerships with different agencies, and giving presentations on how the Council can help

professionals best serve the deaf and hard of hearing community. I am pleased that the Council's efforts have resulted in increased awareness among professionals of the needs and challenges of the deaf community and their readiness to work together for better solutions, ensuring accessibility and opportunities for the deaf and hard of hearing populations.

Recently, through these efforts, the Council celebrated a number of important achievements. One example is that the Idaho Division of Motor Vehicles recently launched a new computerized driver's knowledge test in ASL. I am proud that Idaho is the second state in the nation that offers access to this type of test for those who utilize sign language. This is merely an example of many achievements made possible through wonderful partnerships.

You will be hearing more, very soon, about a number of upcoming legislations, projects and activities such as sign language interpreter licensure, implementation of mental health services, policies governing communication access in courthouses, access to information and resources for military veterans with hearing loss, and more.

As always, I may be reached at steven.snow@vr.idaho.gov. Contact me if you have ideas, input or news to share.

HAMILTON RELAY HONORS DAVINA SNOW

Continued from front page

Furthermore, Davina is a champion for Deaf survivors of domestic or sexual violence and has received advanced training to help survivors cope with their experiences.

Described by her peers as trustworthy and as a role model who balances a family, a full-time job, and a commitment to the community, Hamilton Relay recognized Davina for her work in Idaho to improve the lives of individuals who are deaf by presenting her with the Hamilton Relay 2013 Deaf Community Leader Award for Idaho.

More information about Hamilton Relay is available at www.hamiltonrelay.com.



COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

VOTING MEMBERS

Russell Patterson, Chair
Deserét Baker
Joelynn Ball
Shannon Gower, Au.D.
Susan Koepnick
Richard Lee, M.D.
Steven Stubbs
David "Jerry" Wilding

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Doug Clapp Voc. Rehabilitation	Gordon Graff Idaho Dept. of Labor
Brian Darcy ID Ed. Services for the Deaf & the Blind	Deedra Hunt ID Commission on Aging
Brett DeLange Office of the Attorney General	Kellie LaBonte ID Bureau of Occupational Licenses
Bob Dunbar ID Public Utilities Commission	Brian Shakespeare Dept. of Health and Welfare/Infant Toddler
	Steven Snow ICDHH

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ICDHH BOARD MEMBER *(Parent of a deaf child)*

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing consists of nine members appointed by the governor. Members serve terms of one to three years, and every year there are three members whose terms expire. Article II, Section 3 of the Council's by-laws requires the Council to advertise nominations for new members.

The Council has a vacant position up for appointment that must be filled by a parent of a deaf child.

The Council member position is one of leadership and includes the power to establish policy and govern. Such leadership implies the acceptance of a high commitment to work for the broad purposes and the objectives of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. A council member's wisdom, counsel, and support are vital to the success to the mission of the Council.

Responsibilities

1. Give special knowledge and skills individually and through committee efforts to pursue established goals.
2. Serve on committees, as needed, in the area of interest and expertise.
3. Attend regularly scheduled quarterly meetings or notify Executive Director or Chairperson of non-attendance.
4. Provide constructive guidance and advice to the Council, its officers, and the Executive Director on all matters affecting the best interest of

the Council's programs, financial stability, and governing procedures.

5. Review and approve an annual budget.
6. Represent the Council to the member's constituency and the public.
7. Keep the Council informed about activities of the organization or constituency the member represents and make sure that the Council is aware of problems being encountered by the member's constituency or organization.
8. Serve as an advocate for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Advocate for improving communication access, for identifying of children with hearing loss and for an increase in services to assist people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
9. Serve as a resource in the community for issues faced by people in the community who are deaf or hard of hearing and for providing information on accommodations and auxiliary services that can improve communication access.

The Council meets four times annually. The Council pays for travel, lodging and meal expenses. Interested parties may submit an application to the governor's office via <http://gov.idaho.gov/boards/BoardApplication-EntryForm.cfm>. If you have questions, or would like more information, please contact the Council at (208) 334-0879.

NEW IDAHO DEAF-BLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM OPENS

Idaho residents who have a combined hearing and vision loss can connect with family, friends, and the community through the newly-established Idaho Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (IDBEDP). Mandated by the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) provided funds to establish a new national program, which provides support for the local distribution of accessible communications technology for individuals with a dual sensory impairment.

IDBEDP ensures that every person with combined hearing and vision loss has access

to modern telecommunication tools, from screen enlargement software and videophones to off-the-shelf accessible products, along with the necessary training. This grants every individual the opportunity to interact with the world as an involved, contributing member of society.

IDBEDP provides outreach, assessments, telecommunications technology and training at no charge to those who are eligible. To be eligible an individual must have both a hearing and vision loss and have an income of less than 400% of federal poverty guidelines.

For more information about the IDBEDP, call (800) 432-8324 or visit www.idahoat.org.

IDAHO'S WRITTEN KNOWLEDGE DRIVER'S LICENSE TEST NOW AVAILABLE IN ASL



In Idaho, the driver's license written knowledge test is now available in American Sign Language (ASL), and can be taken at all driver's license stations in the state.

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is the first in the nation to work with Solutions Thru Software to develop this innovative software and integrate it into the state's current automated-testing system. Idaho is one of only a few states that offer ASL using an automated on-screen application.

"I am thrilled with the new technology ITD has developed to allow deaf and hard of hearing individuals who depend

on American Sign Language to access information and give them the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge in their own language," said Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Executive Director Steven Snow. "ITD has proven its commitment in bettering the lives of the deaf and hard of hearing people."

Video segments in ASL are available for all questions and answers on the knowledge test. Prior to taking the test, interested individuals must indicate their desire to take the ASL version of the test.

Ed Pemble, ITD Driver Services manager, said, "While all states will offer the driver's license knowledge test in ASL, Idaho is unique in offering the test in ASL immediately without the need to schedule a translator."

"This is a proud occasion to celebrate," said Deanna Stubbs, an American Sign Language instructor and advocate. "We cannot fully express what this means for our community. Genuine appreciation is not enough." She added that it was difficult to comprehend the written-knowledge test because of the complexity of English grammar, and scheduling a translator had to take place well in advance.

The written-knowledge test is required for new driver's license applicants or for those whose driver's license has been expired for 25 months or more.

For more information, visit www.itd.idaho.gov.

DIFFICULTY HEARING OVER THE TELEPHONE? SEE WHAT THEY SAY® WITH CAPTIONED TELEPHONE.

Captioned Telephone (CapTel®) is a no-cost service available through Idaho Relay that allows individuals who have difficulty hearing on the phone to listen while reading word-for-word captions of what's said to them.

Through the use of a uniquely designed CapTel phone, users speak directly to the other party and listen while reading the other party's response. Captions appear on the bright, built-in display screen of the CapTel phone just moments after the other party has spoken.



Captioned Telephone eliminates the struggle of using the phone and provides a truly interactive calling experience.

To learn more about Captioned Telephone and how to obtain a CapTel phone, call 888-269-7477 (Voice/TTY). For additional information, or for a free demonstration or presentation for you or your organization, contact Idaho Relay Outreach Coordinator,

Emilie Pennie at (208) 643-2633 (VP), (208) 659-2582 (mobile text) or at emilie.pennie@hamiltonrelay.com.

**Captioning service through Idaho Relay is provided at no cost. Equipment charges and standard long distance charges may apply.*

Opinion: INTERPRETERS ARE “EXPENSIVE”



**By Cliff Hanks, President
Network Interpreting Service, Inc.**

Over the years I have witnessed people refer to American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters as “expensive.” I would like to suggest that this label is, at most, unjustified, or at least, not helpful.

It is of course quite rare for a Deaf individual to pay for interpreting services out of his/her own pocket. The cost of service is almost always paid for by the hiring party. Perhaps it is a little ironic, or only coincidental, that it is often Deaf consumers who throw the word “expensive” into the discussion. Depending on his or her role or involvement, a Deaf consumer may or may not know how affordable the services are for the organization actually securing the service.

An unanticipated cost does not, by definition, equal “expensive.” For most organizations, ASL interpreting expenses are rare. Because of this, they are often forgotten during the budgeting process and end up surprising those in charge. An unanticipated expense may be painful but that does not necessarily mean the services being paid for are expensive. If, for example, a large convention, thinking ahead, added a few cents or dollars to the cost of general registration to prepare for the rare but possible cost of communication access

requests, the expense would be easily managed and the label of “expensive” may not be tossed around so freely, stigmatizing communication access.

There is no right or wrong when it comes to the price of interpreters. They are, in my opinion, neither expensive nor cheap. Their fee ranges fluctuate according to the cities where they live, work, play, raise families and make contributions. Each city or region has a certain cost of living, a certain number of qualified interpreters available in the pool, and a certain volume and style of demand. These dynamics, along with costs associated with securing and then maintaining professional certification, year-round professional development, professional liability insurance, vehicle maintenance and travel costs, ultimately determine the price.

That being said, it has been my observation that interpreting services are still perfectly and completely affordable by practically every organization that is asked or required to secure them. Therefore there is no reason, in my opinion, to intentionally or unintentionally shame interpreters or Deaf consumers by throwing the word “expensive” into the mix. If we want to attract and keep a talented, highly qualified pool of interpreters who are available 24/7/365, along with related support systems, then we should hope and pray they are well and fairly compensated; perhaps even close to “expensive.”

IAD OUTLINES OUTREACH PLANS

By Alan Wilding, IAD President

The Idaho Association of the Deaf is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that serves the entire state of Idaho. In the past six months, the board has actively gathered information about Deaf* citizens’ needs in Idaho. A major concern that has come up repeatedly is the issue of interpreting and accessibility.

To address the need to educate the general public and various businesses and services working with Deaf individuals, IAD has decided to host an educational campaign, traveling to different parts of the state and teaching workshops about interpreting needs, interacting with Deaf individuals, and what the law says about access for Deaf people. IAD also plans to develop a training video for all state agencies, such as police departments, courthouses, and prisons. Numerous fundraising projects are underway for this educational campaign. IAD looks forward to developing a stronger bond with all facets of the community in Idaho!

President Wilding is joined on the board by Vice President Keith Drown, Secretary Stefanie Saltern, Treasurer Ray Lockary, Auditor Kristi Dorris, President Emeritus Jerry Wilding, and Past President Bill Andrew.

To get more information, request support or advocacy services, or volunteer your expertise or services, visit www.idahodeaf.org.



**“Deaf” includes all facets of this community: Deaf, deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, etc.*

TARA'S STORY

By Doug Clapp, VR Counselor

I first met Tara Adams when she applied for Idaho Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) services in August 2011. She was interested in becoming an educator specializing in American Sign Language (ASL), but had not yet completed her degree. She also was interested in possibly forming a business teaching private ASL lessons. After reviewing VR policies, Tara worked on her business plan — which was approved.



Following a very successful open house, ASL Expressions officially opened in March 2013.

Today, Tara works with partners including Weiser School District, Caldwell Dept. of Health, Hillside Academy, Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare, Idaho's Infant Toddler program, Juvenile Corrections, and IESDB; she is also a vendor for IDVR. She has worked with Idaho Education Network to teach via Skype for private businesses.

At the end of her first month, Tara had about 12 students. She now serves well over 30 and is going strong. She sponsors and is a great advocate for deaf community events.

Tara was named Rehab of the Year for IDVR's Region III. Tara, her friends and family, and IDVR Region III staff attended an informal gathering, complete with cake, where she received her plaque.

It is an honor to have worked with Tara. She is an outstanding example in her passion to serve, her love for people, and the importance of pursuing dreams with tenacity.



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COUNCIL'S STEVEN SNOW ELECTED TO 2014-2018 NASADHH BOARD

Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Executive Director Steven Snow has been elected to the National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NASADHH) Board of Directors.

The NASADHH is comprised of administrators of state agencies serving deaf and hard of hearing populations. NASADHH has the purpose of functioning as the national voice of state agencies serving deaf and hard of hearing people and promote the implementation of best practices in the provision of services. The 2014-2016 board includes President Steve Florio of Rhode Island, Vice President Sherri Collins of Arizona, Secretary Jan Withers of North Carolina, Treasurer Virginia Moore of Kentucky, Members at Large Eric Raff of Washington, Dee Clanton of New Hampshire, and Steven.

Congratulations, Steven!

For more information about NASADHH, visit www.nasadhh.org.

FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER WALTER JASTREMSKY DIES



Walter Eugene Jastremsky, Jr., 80, passed away peacefully on September 18, 2013, with his family by his side. Walter was a dedicated husband and father, deeply loved by his family and community. Walter was born September 5, 1933 in San Francisco, the only child of his parents Walter E. and Juanita Harriett (Rapley) Jastremsky.

He overcame many physical challenges in his life; he was born two months premature and weighed three pounds. At a year and a half, he contracted measles and became deaf. At age seven, he was kicked in the head by a horse. Walter always figured he should have died, but felt Our Father took care of him and he continued living. Later in life, he had both hips and knees replaced, and multiple heart surgeries. Yet Walter maintained a positive attitude and sense of humor, calling himself "The Deaf Bionic Man." Walter valued learning all his life.

He was a graduate of Gallaudet University for the Deaf in Washington, D.C., and received a bachelor's degree in 1959. As a student, he served as the track and field manager and wrestled. After graduation, he worked at the Ogden School for the Deaf in Utah, where he met the love of his life and future wife Diane Stanford. They were married in the Logan Temple, April 14, 1966.

He experienced Idaho for the first time working as a young man at a sawmill near Weippe. He came back years later with his new bride and they settled in Boise. After much patience and persistence, he got a job in the print shop at the Boise Cascade Corporation, which led to a 26-year career as an accounting clerk with the company.

Many of his finest achievements came from his volunteer roles and leadership in the Idaho Deaf community. He served for 19 years on the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a governor-appointed position, where he advocated for deaf education and

Above all, Walter lived a life of unwavering faith, integrity and devotion to his family.

testified to the State Board of Education. Among other contributions, he was involved in enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act in Idaho in 1991 and in getting a TTY installed at the Boise airport. In 2012, Walter was selected for the Hamilton Relay Deaf Community Leader Award for Idaho.

A deeply spiritual person, Walter was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and served in various callings including ward finance clerk, stake missionary, and Sunday school teacher for the Deaf. Walter put people at ease with his engaging smile, twinkle in his eye, hearty hello, and firm handshake. People felt an immediate connection and friendship with Walter. He gave generously of his time, talents and wisdom.

Walter had a sharp memory and intellect: he could name any vintage car, year, make and model just by glancing at it. An avid chess player, he was a keen competitor even during the last week of his life. Above all, Walter lived a life of unwavering faith, integrity and devotion to his family.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Diane, and his five daughters Harriett, Magnolia, Nedda, Maureen, and Anna, who are married to Michael Richardson, Marc Fink, Jim Greer, Eric Jonsson, and Sean Glazier, respectively; and by his grandchildren Sophie, Isaac, Simon, Calvin, Mira, Ezra, and a granddaughter on the way. He is also survived by two cousins, Loretta Lodes and Bill Rapley Jr. His family will forever cherish the memories of a truly inspiring, honorable, and great man.

— Obituary published in *Idaho Statesman*,
September 2013.

SIGN UP FOR THE ICDHH NEWSLETTER

To be added on the distribution list for this newsletter, please contact Cindy at the Council office at schreinc@dhw.idaho.gov or (208) 334-0879.

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Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Mission: To create an environment in which Idahoans of all ages, who are deaf or hard of hearing, have an equal opportunity to participate as active, responsible, productive, and independent citizens of Idaho.

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